CLAIMS

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed is:

1. A temporary door jamb assembly guard for installation over, and for temporarily protecting, a door jamb assembly during a period when such door jamb assembly is susceptible to an elevated level of risk of damage, such door jamb assembly having an inner-facing surface defining a door opening, a door-arresting surface, and an outer surface facing away from such door-arresting surface, such inner-facing surface extending from such door-arresting surface to such outer surface, said temporary door jamb assembly guard comprising:

(a) a central section which overlies the inner-facing surface of such door jamb assembly, said central section having a first door side, and a second opposing side displaced from the door side;

(b) a door leg section, connected to said central section at said first door side; and

(c) an outer leg section, directly or indirectly connected to said central section at said second side facing away from such door opening,

said door leg section having a first length between said first door side of said central section and an opposing distal edge of said door leg section, said outer leg section having a second length, substantially greater than the first length, between said second side of said central section and an opposing distal edge of said outer leg section.

2. A temporary door jamb assembly guard as in Claim 1 wherein said guard can be installed on a door jamb assembly, and wherein a conventional door slab, mounted to such door jamb assembly, can be closed and opened with said guard so installed, without interfering with such operation of such door.

3. A temporary door jamb assembly guard as in Claim 1 wherein said guard is designed and configured to fit over and protect an outer trim element as part of such door jamb assembly.

4. A temporary door jamb assembly guard as in Claim 1, said outer leg section comprising an interface member connected to said central section at said second side facing away from such door, said interface member being sized and configured to extend at a transverse angle to said central section, said interface member being arranged and configured such that said interface member can extend over, and overlie, at least a portion of such outer surface of such door jamb assembly, said outer leg section further comprising a resiliently cushioning nose member extending outwardly in front of said interface member, a cavity optionally being defined between said interface member and said resiliently cushioning nose member.

5. A temporary door jamb assembly guard as in Claim 1 wherein said door jamb assembly guard covers less than the entirety of a width of the inner-facing surface of a such door jamb assembly for which said guard has been designed and configured.

6. A temporary door jamb assembly guard as in Claim 1, further comprising a cover tab, extending from a distal end (88) of said outer leg section, and adapted to extend over an outer face (94) of a trim element of such jamb assembly, with a line of weakness at the distal end (88) of the outer leg section.

7. A temporary door jamb assembly guard as in Claim 1, further comprising a cover tab extending from a distal end of said outer leg section, and adapted to extend over an outer face (94) of a trim element of such jamb assembly, with a line of weakness at a locus overlying an outer surface (38) of a such trim element adjacent, but displaced from, distal end (88) of said outer leg section.

8. A temporary door jamb assembly guard as in Claim 1, said outer leg section extending in an arcuate outer surface to an under-curled cushioning distal end.

9. A temporary door jamb assembly guard as in Claim 1, said outer leg section comprising a separate cover tab element (92) adapted to cover an outer face (94) of a trim element of such door jamb assembly.

10. A temporary door jamb assembly guard as in Claim 1, said guard comprising a first outer leg member (52A), and a second outer leg member (52B) attached to the first outer leg member at a locus displaced from a distal edge (64A) of said first outer leg member.

11. A temporary door jamb assembly guard as in Claim 1, said door leg section being designed and configured to fit, on a correspondingly configured door jamb assembly, between such door-arresting surface and a weather strip element mounted proximate such door arresting surface.

12. A temporary door jamb assembly guard as in Claim 1, said central section comprising inner and outer section elements, for adjusting said jamb assembly guard according to thickness of a jamb assembly between such door-arresting surface and such outer surface, said inner and outer central section elements interlocking with each other to establish an adjusted width of said central section corresponding to such thickness of such jamb assembly, said outer leg section being disposed relatively inwardly of such door opening and interfacing with such door-arresting surface, said inner and outer sections being slidingly engageable with each other to cause the inner and outer sections to grippingly engage such door-arresting surface and such outer surface of such jamb assembly, thus to custom adjust width of said central section of said guard to fit such thickness of such respective jamb assembly.

13. A temporary door jamb assembly guard as in Claim 1, further comprising a transition section between said central section and said outer leg section.

14. A temporary door jamb assembly guard as in Claim 1 wherein said central section further comprises a release ridge (114) extending along a length thereof, which release ridge is displaced from an underlying jamb by a distance (D1) greater than a base distance (D2) by which a remainder of said central section is displaced from such jamb.

15. A temporary door jamb assembly guard as in Claim 1, said central section comprising a line of weakness extending along a length of said central section, wherein the line of weakness defines separable inner and outer separable pieces, and facilitates separating said guard into inner (36IN) and outer (36OUT) separate pieces.

16. A temporary door jamb assembly guard as in Claim 15, further comprising affixing structure on at least one of the inner and outer separable pieces prior to separation at the line of weakness, adapted to affix the inner and outer separate pieces to each other in overlapping relationship.

17. A temporary door jamb assembly guard for installation over, and for temporarily protecting, a door jamb assembly during a period when such door jamb assembly is susceptible to an elevated level of risk of damage, such door jamb assembly having an inner-facing surface defining a door opening, a door-arresting surface, and an outer surface facing away from such door-arresting surface, such inner-facing surface extending from such door-arresting surface to such outer surface, said temporary door jamb assembly guard comprising:

(a) a central section which overlies the inner-facing surface of such door jamb assembly, said central section having a first door side, and a second opposing side displaced from such door side;

(b) a door leg section, connected to said central section at said first door side and sized and configured to extend at a transverse angle to said central section along such door-arresting surface of said door jamb assembly; and

(c) an outer leg section, directly or indirectly connected to said central section at said second side facing away from such door, said outer leg section being sized and configured to extend at a transverse angle to said central section,

the second side of said central section of said door frame guard being arranged and configured such that the outer leg section, connected thereto, can be disposed against the outer surface of such door jamb assembly, such that said outer leg section can extend over, and overlie, at least a portion of such outer surface of such door jamb assembly.

18. A temporary door jamb assembly guard as in Claim 17 wherein said guard can be installed on a door jamb assembly, and wherein a respective conventional door mounted to such door jamb assembly can be closed with said guard so installed, without interfering with operation of such door.

19. A temporary door jamb assembly guard as in Claim 17 wherein said guard is designed and configured to fit over and protect an outer trim element as part of such door jamb assembly.

20. A temporary door jamb assembly guard as in Claim 17, said door leg section having a first length between said first door-facing side of said central section and an opposing distal edge of said door leg section, said outer leg having a second length, substantially greater than the first length, between said second side of said central section and an opposing distal edge of said outer leg section.

21. A temporary door jamb assembly guard as in Claim 17, said outer leg section comprising an interface member, sized and configured to extend at a transverse angle to said central section, said interface member being arranged and configured such that said interface member can extend over, and overlie, at least a portion of such outer surface of such door jamb assembly, said outer leg section further comprising a resiliently cushioning nose member extending outwardly in front of said interface member, a cavity optionally being defined between said interface member and said resiliently cushioning nose member.

22. A temporary door jamb assembly guard as in Claim 17 wherein said door jamb assembly guard covers less than the entirety of a width of the inner-facing surface of a such door jamb assembly for which said guard has been designed and configured.

23. A temporary door jamb assembly guard as in Claim 17, further comprising a transition section between said central section and said outer leg section.

24. A temporary door jamb assembly guard as in Claim 17, said central section comprising a line of weakness extending along a length of said central section, wherein the line of weakness defines inner and outer separable pieces, and facilitates separating said guard into inner (36IN) and outer (36OUT) separate pieces.

25. A temporary door jamb assembly guard as in Claim 24, further comprising affixing structure on at least one of the inner and outer separable pieces prior to separation at the line of weakness, adapted to affix the inner and outer separate pieces to each other in overlapping relationship.

26. A temporary door jamb assembly guard for installation over, and for temporarily protecting, a door jamb assembly during a period when such door jamb assembly is susceptible to an elevated risk of damage, such door jamb assembly

having an inner-facing surface defining a door opening, a door-arresting surface, and an outer surface facing away from such door-arresting surface, such inner-facing surface extending from such door-arresting surface to such outer surface, said temporary door jamb assembly guard comprising:

(a) a central section which can overlie the inner-facing surface of such door jamb assembly, said central section having a first door side, and a second opposing trim side displaced from the door side;

(b) a door leg section, connected to said central section at said first door side and extending at a transverse angle to said central section so as to extend along such door-arresting surface of said door jamb assembly;

(c) an outer leg section, disposed outwardly of said central section at said second side facing away from such door opening, and disposed away from such wall, said outer leg section extending at a transverse angle to said central section so as to extend over, and overlie, at least a portion of such outer surface of such door jamb assembly; and

(d) a transition section between said central section and said outer leg section, said transition section comprising an overlying contact structure directly interfacing with objects which impact on said transition element, and underlying support structure adapted and configured to interface with underlying surfaces of such jamb assembly, said transition section being effective to absorb and distribute forces imposed thereon so as to attenuate damage to such jamb assembly.

27. A temporary door jamb assembly guard as in Claim 26 wherein said guard can be installed on a door jamb assembly, and wherein a respective conventional door mounted to such door jamb assembly can be closed with said guard so installed, without interfering with operation of such door.

28. A temporary door jamb assembly guard as in Claim 26 wherein said guard is designed and configured to fit over and protect an outer trim element as part of such door jamb assembly.

29. A temporary door jamb assembly guard as in Claim 26 wherein said door jamb assembly guard covers less than the entirety of a width of the inner-facing surface of a such door jamb assembly for which said guard has been designed and configured.

30. A temporary door jamb assembly guard as in Claim 26 wherein said door leg section terminates at a distal edge thereof comprising a distal edge of said guard, and consistent with termination in the vicinity of, and protecting, such door arresting surface.

31. A temporary door jamb assembly guard as in Claim 26, further comprising a cover tab, extending from a distal end (88) of said outer leg section, and adapted to extend over an outer face (94) of a trim element of such jamb assembly, with a line of weakness at the distal end (88) of the outer leg section.

32. A temporary door jamb assembly guard as in Claim 26, further comprising a cover tab extending from a distal end of said outer leg section, and adapted to extend over an outer face (94) of a trim element of such jamb assembly, with a line of weakness at a locus overlying an outer surface (38) of a such trim element adjacent, but displaced from, distal end (88) of said outer leg section.

33. A temporary door jamb assembly guard as in Claim 26, further comprising a flex joint in said outer leg section, operative for rotating a distal edge of said outer leg section away from an underlying such door jamb assembly.

34. A temporary door jamb assembly guard as in Claim 26, said contact structure comprising a contact web (83) extending between first and second sides thereof at said outer leg section and said central section, said underlying support structure comprising at least one transfer web, extending from one of said first and second sides of said contact structure in a direction along at least one of (i) a surface of a trim element or (ii) an outer surface of such jamb.

35. A temporary door jamb assembly guard as in Claim 26 wherein said contact structure comprises a contact web (83), and wherein said underlying support structure comprises a transfer web (86B) extending from said contact web (83) along an outer surface (26) of such door jamb assembly to a locus proximate an intersection of such outer face (26) and an adjoining surface (87) of a trim element.

36. A temporary door jamb assembly guard as in Claim 26, said support structure of said transition section being adapted and configured to reside in a cavity defined between said contact structure, an inner facing surface (87) of such trim element, and an outer surface (26) of such jamb, and to transfer forces from said contact structure to underlying surfaces of such trim element and such jamb at locations away from outer corners (54, 55) of such trim element and such jamb.

37. A temporary door jamb assembly guard as in Claim 26, said underlying support structure comprising transfer webs connected to said contact structure and to each other to define a cavity between said transfer webs and said contact structure, and further comprising support webs (112) extending between said contact structure and at least one of said transfer webs.

38. A temporary door jamb assembly guard as in Claim 26, said central section comprising a line of weakness extending along a length of said central section, wherein the line of weakness defines separable inner and outer pieces of said guard, and facilitates separating said guard into inner (36IN) and outer (36OUT) separate pieces.

39. A temporary door jamb assembly guard as in Claim 38, further comprising affixing structure on at least one of the inner and outer separable pieces prior to separation at the line of weakness, adapted to affix the inner and outer separate pieces to each other in overlapping relationship.

40. A temporary door jamb assembly guard for installation over, and for temporarily protecting, a door jamb assembly during a period when such door jamb assembly is susceptible to an elevated level of risk of damage, such door jamb assembly having an inner-facing surface defining a door opening, a door-arresting surface, and an outer surface facing away from such door-arresting surface, such inner-facing surface extending from such door-arresting surface to such outer surface, said temporary door jamb assembly guard comprising:

(a) a central section which overlies the inner-facing surface of such door jamb assembly, said central section having a first door side, and a second opposing side facing away from such door side;

(b) a door leg section, connected to said central section at said first door side and sized and configured to extend at a transverse angle to said central section along such door-arresting surface of such door jamb assembly; and

(c) an outer leg section directly or indirectly connected to said central section at said second side facing away from such door, said outer leg section comprising an interface member sized and configured to extend at a transverse angle to said central section, said interface member being arranged and configured such that said interface member can be disposed against the outer surface of such door jamb assembly and can extend over, and overlie, at least a portion of such outer surface of such door jamb assembly, said outer leg section further comprising a resiliently cushioning nose member extending outwardly in front of said interface member, a cavity being optionally defined between said interface member and said resiliently cushioning nose member.

41. A temporary door jamb assembly guard as in Claim 40, said nose member defining an arcuate cross-section, thereby to transfer substantially all low-to-medium intensity forces, imposed on said nose member, to said interface member proximate said central section and proximate a distal edge of said interface member.

42. A temporary door jamb assembly guard as in Claim 40 wherein said guard can be installed on a door jamb assembly, and wherein a conventional door mounted to such door jamb assembly can be closed with said guard so installed, without interfering with operation of such door.

43. A temporary door jamb assembly guard as in Claim 40 wherein said guard is designed and configured to fit over and protect at least part of an outer trim element as part of such door jamb assembly.

44. A temporary door jamb assembly guard as in Claim 40, said door leg section having a first length between said central section and an opposing distal edge of said door leg section, said outer leg having a second length, substantially greater than the first length, between said second side of said central section and an opposing distal edge of said outer leg section.

45. A temporary door jamb assembly guard as in Claim 40 wherein said door jamb assembly guard covers less than the entirety of a width of the inner-facing surface of a such door jamb assembly for which said guard has been designed and configured.

46. A temporary door jamb assembly guard as in Claim 40, further comprising a transition section between said central section and said outer leg section.

47. A temporary door jamb assembly guard as in Claim 40, said central section comprising a line of weakness extending along a length of said central section, wherein the line of weakness defines inner and outer separable pieces of said guard, and facilitates separating said guard into inner (36IN) and outer (36OUT) separate pieces.

48. A temporary door jamb assembly guard as in Claim 47, further comprising affixing structure on at least one of the inner and outer separable pieces prior to separation at the line of weakness, adapted to affix the inner and outer separate pieces to each other in overlapping relationship.

49. In combination, a door jamb assembly defining a door opening, and a removable guard mounted over and overlying at least a portion of said door jamb assembly, the combination comprising:

(a) said door jamb assembly having an inner-facing surface facing into the door opening, a door-arresting surface, and an outer surface facing away from the door-arresting surface, the inner-facing surface extending from the door-arresting surface to the outer surface; and

(b) said removable guard protecting said door jamb assembly from incidental damage, and comprising

(i) a central section overlying the inner-facing surface of the door jamb assembly, said central section having a first door side, and a second opposing side displaced from the door side,

(ii) a door leg section, connected to said central section at the first door side and adapted to interface with the door-arresting surface of the door jamb assembly, and

(iii) an outer leg section, directly or indirectly connected to said central section at said second side, displaced from the door opening, said outer leg section extending at a transverse angle to said central section, said outer leg section being disposed

against, and protecting, the outer surface of the door jamb assembly.

50. A combination as in Claim 49 wherein a conventional door, mounted to said door jamb assembly, can be closed with said guard so installed, without interfering with operation of such door.

51. A combination as in Claim 49 wherein said guard overlies and protects a brick mold as part of said door jamb assembly.

52. A combination as in Claim 49, said outer leg section comprising an interface member sized and configured to extend at a transverse angle to said central section, the second side of said central section of said door frame guard being arranged and configured such that said interface member can extend over, and overlie, at least a portion of the outer surface of the door jamb assembly, said outer leg section further comprising a resiliently cushioning nose member extending outwardly in front of said interface member, a cavity being optionally defined between said interface member and said resiliently cushioning nose member.

53. A combination as in Claim 49 wherein said guard covers less than the entirety of a width of the inner-facing surface of a said door jamb assembly.

54. A combination as in Claim 49, including weather stripping adjacent the door-arresting surface, said door leg section being disposed between the door-arresting surface and said weather stripping, without interfering with routine mounting, or routine operation, of the weather stripping.

55. A combination as in Claim 49, further comprising a transition section between said central section and said outer leg section.

56. A combination as in Claim 49, said guard comprising inner (36IN) and outer (36OUT) separate pieces, overlapping each other at said central section, and secured to each other.

57. A method of protecting a door jamb assembly which defines a doorway opening, from incidental damage during a period when the door jamb assembly is susceptible to an elevated level of risk of damage, the door jamb assembly comprising left and right upstanding jamb assembly elements, and optionally an upper jamb assembly element extending between the left and right upstanding jamb assembly elements, each such jamb assembly element having an inner-facing surface facing into the doorway opening, a door-arresting surface, and an outer surface facing away from the door-arresting surface, the inner facing surface extending from the door-arresting surface to the outer surface, the method comprising:

installing, on one or more of the jamb assembly elements, a removable jamb assembly guard, the jamb assembly guard comprising

(i) a central section which overlies the inner-facing surface of the door jamb assembly, and which has a first door side, and a second opposing side displaced from the door side,

(ii) a door leg section, connected to the central section at the first door side and extending at a transverse angle to the central section along the door-arresting surface of the door jamb assembly, and

(iii) an outer leg section, connected directly or indirectly to the central section at the second side displaced from the doorway opening, the outer leg section extending at a transverse angle to the central section,

the outer leg section of the guard thus being disposed against the outer surface of the door jamb assembly such that the outer leg section extends over, and overlies, at least a portion of the outer surface of the door jamb assembly,

the jamb assembly guard, when installed on such door jamb assembly, having the central section thereof overlying the inner-facing surface of the door jamb assembly, the outer leg section overlying and protecting at least a portion of the outer surface

of the door jamb assembly, and the door leg section extending across and protecting the door-arresting surface.

58. A method as in Claim 57 wherein the guard is mounted and held to the jamb assembly by friction and/or temporary tab interaction with the jamb assembly.

59. A method as in Claim 57, including installing the guard on the jamb assembly in combination with a door slab being installed on the jamb assembly, and including closing the door slab, thus to close the door opening, with the guard so installed and without interference between operation of the door slab and the guard.

60. A method as in Claim 57, the jamb assembly including an outer trim piece disposed outwardly from the door opening, the method including installing the guard so as to protect at least part of an outwardly-facing surface of the outer trim piece.

61. A method as in Claim 57, the central section comprising inner and outer section elements, for interlocking with each other thereby to establish an adjusted width of the central section, the method comprising placing the guard over the jamb assembly with the central section in surface-to-surface contact with the inner-facing surface of the jamb assembly, the outer leg section being disposed relatively outwardly of the doorway opening, the door leg section being disposed at the door-arresting surface, the method further comprising urging the inner and outer sections toward each other, thus slidingly engaging the inner and outer sections with each other and causing the inner and outer sections to grippingly engage the door-arresting surface of the jamb assembly and the outer surface of the jamb assembly, thus to custom adjust the guard to the respective jamb assembly.

62. A method as in Claim 57, including removing the guard from the jamb assembly when the period of elevated risk has ended.

63. A method as in Claim 57, including removing the guard from the jamb assembly when the period of elevated risk has ended.

64. A method as in Claim 57, the jamb assembly guard further comprising a transition section between the central section and the outer leg section such that the transition section protects a corner of a jamb, on the jamb assembly, which faces inwardly of the doorway and outwardly of the building, as well as a corner of a trim element which is part of the jamb assembly, and which corner of the trim element also faces inwardly of the doorway and outwardly of the building.

65. A method as in Claim 57, the method further comprising separating the guard into separate inner and outer pieces, at the central section, installing the inner and outer pieces on one of the jamb assembly elements, with elements of the central section overlapping each other over an inner facing surface of the respective jamb assembly element, and affixing the overlapped central section elements to each other so as to maintain the overlapped elements in overlapping relationship, and so as to hold the guard on the jamb assembly.

66. A method as in Claim 65, further comprising mounting the combination of the jamb assembly and the guard in a doorway opening in a building, thus controlling access to the building while protecting the door jamb assembly from incidental damage.